



## **Board of School Directors Committee Meetings Minutes Wednesday, February 8, 2023**

*Generated by Renai Cardillo on Monday, February 13, 2023*

**Members present:** Nicholas Braccio, William Brong, Janet Flisak, Andrew Landis, Ken Keith, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Stephen Nelson, Donna Scheuren

**Members absent:** Courtney Barbieri

**Others present:** Todd Burns, Barb Coale, John Franzen, Frank Gallagher, Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Mike Olenick, Tom Overberger, Jeff Pammer, Dennis Stanton, Amy Tarlo, Michael Taylor, Jennifer Toby, Sam Varano, and Megan Zweiback

### **1. Education-Personnel Committee**

#### 1.1 Curriculum Revisions and Chapter 339 Counseling Plan

Mr. Kwiatkowski called the E-P Meeting to order at 6:31 P.M.

Superintendent Gallagher stated that the Chapter 339 Plan is a PDE requirement and will require approval by the Board before the end of March.

Director of Pupil Services, Mrs. Zweiback provided additional detail on the Chapter 339 Plan stating its purpose to prepare students with career and/or college readiness strategies, supported by their Advisory and Guidance counselors. Mrs. Zweiback stated that the plan is required by PA Code and is a sequential and comprehensive program for K-12 students. Mrs. Zweiback introduced elementary Guidance Counselor Mrs. Coale, Middle School Counselor Mrs. Toby and High School Counselor Mr. Overberger.

The guidance counselors each spoke about the programs in their schools that support emotional and social learning. Programs address diversity, character development, inclusion, friendships, peer mentoring and bullying-prevention. Ms. Coale indicated that the program uses several resources to reinforce positive behavior and self-regulation.

Ms. Toby spoke about the Middle School Counseling Program that begins in sixth grade providing skills that will enable success in middle school. Students are introduced to career and post secondary options by understanding and learning about their own skills and interests. The program is supplemented with Advisory and monthly counseling lessons. A lesson in restorative practices helps the students to become comfortable advocating for themselves and learning to resolve conflict. Ms. Toby also stated that school counseling assists students in schedule planning as they transition from 8th to 9th grade. Ms. Toby gave an update on the Guidance 6 program and preparedness for 7th and 8th grade.

A video was shown featuring middle school students talking about their Guidance class and the benefits from the class. Students spoke about organizational skills, how they learn, managing stress and career clusters.

High School Guidance Counselor, Mr. Overberger gave an overview of the High School counseling program, noting that that the high school has 8 guidance counselors. Four counselors for 9th and 10th grade and four for 11th and 12th grades. Mr. Overberger noted that the 11th & 12th grade counselors assist in maintenance of academics as well as assist students with post-secondary plans by making sure that students are taking relevant courses for an authentic high school experience.

Mr. Overberger also spoke about the High School 5th Block which gives students an opportunity to develop a relationship with their teacher and receive lessons that assist in high school transition. He also stated that the pilot program The Red Zone has been successful in allowing students to seek additional help or participate in an extra curricular activity. Mr. Overberger indicated that additional supports are available for at-risk students through the Student Assistance Program (SAP) or Lakeside Counselors as needed.

High School Career Pathway Coordinator, Mrs. Tarlo spoke about the Career Pathway program and how its resources impact each grade level differently. As high school students progress through the Career Explorations courses they learn about their own strengths and weaknesses and are given the opportunity to experience a job shadow in a field of interest. In higher

grades students can attend the High School job fair, guest speaker engagements and mentorship opportunities. Mrs. Tarlo stated that the student high school Pathway Manager (a software program) connects the students to their courses and holds a portfolio of their high school experience.

Mrs. Zweiback mentioned the recently held 5th Grade Career Expo where 5th graders from throughout the district visit the high school and learn about courses and classes that will impact their school career. Mrs. Zweiback spoke to the success of goal setting and student written reflections.

Mr. Kwiatkowski thanked Mrs. Zweiback and the team for the work and preparation of the 339 Plan.

A brief discussion occurred regarding the a high school gap year, and the Pathway Program as it relates to NMTCC students. Dr. Varano expressed the desire to implement a join senior project with NMTCC students.

A member of the public asked for additional details on Trauma Informed Training within the district. Superintendent Gallagher indicated that it would be reviewed at a future meeting.

Mr. Kwiatkowski thanked everyone for their work and the Board agreed to move the 339 Plan forward for approval.

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Supervisor of Curriculum, Mr. Franzen introduced two new high school courses; Computer Programming III and Mandarin Chinese IV. High School Principal Dr. Varano introduced high school teacher Mr. Olenick, who spoke about the growth of the course generated by student interest and skillset. He spoke about the front and back ends of computer programming and the individual student drive to learn in a focused environment.

Members of the Board praised Mr. Olenick for his enthusiasm and he invited the Board to visit his class.

The Board agreed to move the course forward for approval.

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Technology, Dr. Kennedy-Reilly introduced the Mandarin Chinese IV course. In the absence of High School teacher Ms. Pomposi, Dr. Kennedy-Reilly shared a video which Ms. Pomposi outlined the course which focusing on student development by enhancing their inter-personal skills and expanding their knowledge in reading, writing and speaking Mandarin. Ms. Pomposi indicated that various resources including movies and documentaries would be utilized to support learning.

Ms. Pomposi also indicated that the main objective of the course is to increase conversational skills and language practice will include day-to-day operations as well as emergency needs. The final course options were reviewed which include real-world experiences.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly stated that Ms. Pomposi is very excited to teach the course which is in its fourth year and student interest continues to grow.

Mrs. Scheuren acknowledged the difficulty in learning all aspects of Chinese and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reinforced the goal of Chinese IV is focused on speaking. Dr. Gallagher indicated that it is a point of pride that this Board approved Mandarin for its students.

A member of the audience asked about introducing instruction of Mandarin in middle school and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly responded that unfortunately, the availability of qualified instructors is very limited. In addition the schedule change at the middle school opened up the opportunity for Pre-engineering and Introduction to Coding which is a high school credit. This addition allows for World Language to begin in the High School.

The Board agreed to move the Mandarin IV course forward for approval.

Mr. Kwiatkowski adjourned the Education-Personnel meeting at 7:52 P.M.

## **2. Operations Committee**

### **2.1 Oak Ridge Facade Remediation Options**

Mr. Brong called the Operations Committee Meeting to order at 7:55 P.M. indicating that there were two items on the agenda this evening.

Director of Business Affairs, Mr. Taylor introduced the Oak Ridge Elementary School Facade Remediation project. Mr. Taylor

introduced Mr. Messmer of GKO Architects to present information related to the remediation project. Mr. Taylor stated that GKO along with a team from SiteLogIQ, have taken test samples of the building walls in order to determine its current status. The school was built in 1990 under typical construction. However it has been determined that there was never a vapor barrier nor an air gap in the original installation. It is the collective belief that the original brick did was not properly cured allowing moisture to collect behind the brick, resulting in many areas of the brick facade to break away and fall off. A slide depicting the existing brick conditions was reviewed.

The deterioration seems to be most prevalent on the north side of the building, the area of the building that receives the least amount of sunshine.

A slide was reviewed showing four options for repair.

- Option #1 - new brick veneer full height
- Option #2 - combo new brick (lower wall) new EIFS veneer (upper wall)
- Option #3 - combo existing brick (lower wall) new EIFS (upper wall)
- Option #4 - stucco over existing brick (lower wall) new stucco (upper wall)

Spot replacement as needed would require a per sq. ft. price.

Mr. Messmer reviewed option #1 - total brick replacement.

Costs estimates were reviewed by option; #1 estimate \$1.8M, #2 estimate \$1.68M, option #3 estimate \$1.5, and option #4 estimate \$800K. A breakdown of these costs was reviewed in a slide itemizing material costs, labor, design contingency and hard and soft costs.

Mr. Taylor reminded everyone that the costs being presented are simply estimated. None of the options have been put out to bid. Mr. Taylor stated that if the Board would approve the repair, it could be scheduled for for Summer 2024. Mr. Taylor reiterated that at this time, the administration is asking for the Board to review and make a decision if any of the options presented are viable for further investigation and planning.

Mr. Taylor noted that the recent borrowing that the district had just completed included an earmark for some of this specific remediation.

A discussion occurred about costs associated with the project and if they included repairs to walls on all sides of the building. Mrs. Flisak asked for additional cost estimates for each of the detailed areas of the project. The options were discussed in detail and questions were posed. Mr. Messmer answered those questions based upon the limited test probe that had been performed.

Mr. Taylor reminded everyone that which ever option that it selected, consideration should be given to the fact that the school is only 30 years old and that the correct repair should allow the building to last for an additional 50-80 years.

Mr. Keith questioned the timing of the project and the precise care that would prevent any possible penetration of water during the construction/installation process. Mr. Messmer stated that any option for bid would include the costs of installation. Mr. Messmer also indicated that a full building audit could be performed to include the roof, windows, and walls.

Mrs. Scheuren expressed concerns about the most sustainable option for longevity of the building as well as the insulation factors on each of the options.

Mr. Taylor suggested that it may be in the best interest of the project to narrow the options from four to two in an effort to accurately achieve comparable estimates. Mr. Nelson asked for the costs associated with the design of project.

Mr. Brong stated that in an order to get a full on guarantee on the building that he believed option #1 was the best option.

Mr. Brong also mentioned sealing the remaining brick on the building.

Board members asked for additional information on all of the options presented.

## 2.2 Multi-purpose Field Discussion

Mr. Keith stated that a multi-purpose field was previously in discussion from the inception of the new high school. Mr. Keith indicated that additional turf fields including a turf baseball field were always in the planning stages as the agreement to play at The Harleysville Community Center had been temporary one. Mr. Brong indicated that a baseball field was not built at the time of construction because of cost, but reiterated that it was always the intention to return play to the high school campus. Mr. Brong also stated that the recent borrowing by the district will allow for developing of the high school campus property.

High School Athletic Director, Mr. Stanton, was in attendance and shared a presentation that highlighted the high school athletic department; the high school currently offers 28 sports and has 15 teams utilizing the turf field/stadium. He noted that there are approximately 1,200 student participating in athletics and the demand for use of facilities both in season and out of season continues to increase.

Mr. Stanton reviewed a presentation that depicted the installation of a new turf field that would also encompass a baseball field on campus. Student athletes would practice and play on the same playing surface. It would fulfil the need for baseball, softball and assist with play on inclement weather days.

A discussion occurred regarding the proposal for a turf field, without lighting at this time. The discussion also included the need for dugouts and a batting tunnel. Mr. Kwiatkowski expressed concern about water management and the associated costs of the project.

Mr. Taylor said that this project could be staged and the district's financial advisor PFM would do an analysis as how best to structure the borrowing. Mr. Taylor gave an oral overview of the borrowing proposal as it relates to the debt service. He also indicated that none of the proposed school renovations would be impacted by the borrowing due to the current debt portfolio structure that is in place. He states that the district has a unique opportunity for this project.

Next steps of the projects were discussed which included a storm water and county conservation study which would take 6-8 months. A brief discussion followed on debt service and it was determined that the project and financials would be discussed in their respective committees (operations and finance).

Mr. Brong adjourned the Operations Committee Meeting at 9:29 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Taylor".

Michael Taylor, C.P.A.  
Board Secretary / Director of Business Affairs